

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, IR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE IRANIAN ADHERENCE TO UNIVERSAL COPYRIGHT
CONVENTION

REF: TEHRAN 2573

1. AS FOLLOW-UP TO REFTEL, DEPT WISHES TO INFORM EMBASSY
ABOUT A MATTER RELATING TO POSSIBLE IRANIAN ADHERENCE TO
UNIVERSAL COPYRIGHT CONVENTION (UCC) AS ULTIMATE SOLUTION
TO CONTINUING BOOK PIRACY IN IRAN. ON JUNE 14, REPRESENT-
TIVES OF DEPT AND ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN PUBLISHERS
(AAP) MET WITH DR. TAVALLALI, MINISTER FROM IRANIAN EMBASSY,
AND WITH MR. M. ARDALAN, COUNSELOR FOR PRESS AND INFORMA-
TION AFFAIRS (ALSO FROM IRANIAN EMBASSY), TO DISCUSS ABOVE
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SUBJECT. DURING COURSE OF MEETING, DR. TAVALLALI SUGGESTED
IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE FOR SMALL DELEGATION FROM AAP TO
VISIT IRAN AND DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER WITH APPROPRIATE
IRANIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. IT WAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT
THIS VISIT MIGHT BE COORDINATED WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH
PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATIONS, WHO ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT
BOOK PIRACY IN IRAN. AS A FOLLOW-UP TO MEETING, LEO ALBERT,

CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF PRENTICE-HALL INTERNATIONAL, WROTE TO AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI, INQUIRING ABOUT FEASIBILITY OF SUCH A VISIT. DEPT HAS NOT YET BEEN INFORMED OF AMBASSADOR'S RESPONSE.

2. FOLLOWING JUNE 14 MEETING, ALBERT SUBMITTED A NOTE TO AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI AND DR. TAVALLALI IN SUPPORT OF AAP'S POSITION THAT IRAN SHOULD CONSIDER JOINING UCC AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. A SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL POINTS IN THE NOTE FOLLOWS:

-- (A) THE 1971 PARIS REVISION OF UCC INCLUDES PROVISIONS WHICH MAKE REPRINT AND TRANSLATION RIGHTS ACCESSIBLE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT VERY REASONABLE COST, AT RATES COMPARABLE TO THOSE THAT WOULD BE PAID TO LOCAL AUTHORS.

-- (B) THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO) AND MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT INFORMATION CENTERS THROUGH WHICH PUBLISHERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN MAKE CONTACT WITH FOREIGN COPYRIGHT OWNERS FOR PURPOSE OF CONCLUDING TRANSLATION AND REPRINT AGREEMENTS.

-- (C) ROYALTY PAYMENTS WHICH IRANIAN PUBLISHERS WOULD PAY WOULD BE SO MINIMAL THAT THEY WOULD HAVE NO ADVERSE EFFECT ON COUNTRY'S SUPPLY OF HARD CURRENCY.

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-- (D) IRAN'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE WOULD BE ENHANCED GREATLY IF IT WERE TO ADHERE TO THIS COPYRIGHT CONVENTION AND BECOME A PART OF INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT COMMUNITY.

-- (E) US AUTHORS/PUBLISHERS UNDERSTAND IRAN'S PRESSING NEED FOR TRANSLATION AND REPRINT RIGHTS IN ORDER TO ASSIST ITS EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS, AND ARE WILLING TO COOPERATE IN MEETING THIS NEED. HOWEVER, U.S. COPYRIGHT OWNERS DEPLORE UNAUTHORIZED TRANSLATION AND DUPLICATION OF FOREIGN COPYRIGHTED WORKS, ESPECIALLY WHEN COPIES ARE EXPORTED TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

3. DEPT WILL KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS PERTAINING TO PROPOSED VISIT OF AAP REPRESENTATIVES TO IRAN. MEANWHILE, IF EMBASSY LEARNS OF ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS MATTER OR BROADER QUESTION OF IRANIAN ADHERENCE TO UCC, DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED. CHRISTOPHER

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